THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Questions do not arise in view of (a) above.

Production of onion

1358. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated production of Onion in the country during the current year;

(b) the quantity of Onion exported during this year till date;

(c) the quantity of Onion in Government stocks; and

(d) how does the Government propose to deal with the shortage of Onion during the months of October/November 2003?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The production figures of onion for the current year are yet not available.

(b) A quantity of 203763 Metric Tonnes onion has been exported till 24.7.2003 during the current year.

(c) The Government do not stock onion. However, estimates indicate that about 18 lakh Metric Tonnes of onion is in store with farmers and other agencies concerned.

(d) No shortage of onion is anticipated during the months of October/November 2003.

Rice to A.P.

1359. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Government has requested to grant more rice stocks for continuing the drought relief works; and

(b) if so, the action taken to supply 10 lakhs tonnes of rice for drought relief works under the Sampooran Grameen Rozgar Yojana to continue the drought mitigation activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Government of Andhra Pradesh had sought allocation of 10 lakh MTs of rice for drought relief works beyond June 2003. The Task Force has approved allocation of 2.20 lakh MTs (including 1.15 lakh MTs not released earlier) for utilization within July, 2003.

Registration of pesticide industries

†1360. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fresh conditions have been imposed on registration of indigenous pesticide industries due to the pressure of multinational companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that multinational companies want to dominate by destroying indigenous companies; and

(d) if so, the details of efforts being made by Government to protect these indigenous companies and to sustain their products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The Registration Committee (RC) constituted under the Insecticides Act, 1968 registers insecticides after satisfying itself that the insecticide to which the application relates conforms to the claims made by the importer or by the manufacturer, as the case may be, as regards the efficacy of the insecticide and its safety to human beings and animals. For this purpose, the Registration Committee has formulated exhaustive guidelines on different parameters to assess efficacy and safety of insecticides. These guidelines are uniformly applicable to indigenous manufacturers as well as multinational companies.

(b) In view of (a) above, question does not arise.

(c) and (d) Companies may be guided by their commercial interests. However, there is no difference in registration process for

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.